

Hamilton Field, Group Headquarters Type B
(Facility No. 601)
State Access Road southwest of
Radio Intelligence Road intersection
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AG

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
1AG-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Group Headquarters Type B (Facility No. 601)

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
1AG-

HABS No. CA-2398-AG

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Group Headquarters Type B
Facility No. 601 (State Access Road southeast of Radio Intelligence Road intersection)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Building 601 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. Facility No. 601 housed the administrative headquarters, meeting rooms, classrooms, and special service areas for one of the many air groups stationed at Hamilton during the war. In later years it served as a payroll center, offices, and cafeteria.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

The Air Group Headquarters building is a one-story frame structure with an H-shaped mass and a concrete pier foundation. The two wings of the H-plan consist of offices, connected by a long shed-roofed central corridor with a continuous row of six- over-six-light wood sash double hung windows along the length of the front facade. The main and wing roof is a low-pitched gable, covered with composition shingles, and with louvered vents in the gable ends. Siding is horizontal board clad with asbestos shingles. The primary entrance, in the center of the building, is accessed through two double solid core wood doors with four lights over three recessed wooden panels; a glass and panel door provides entry to the west wing. Glass and panel wood doors access the rear of the building, two in the west wing and one on the east. A second set of double doors is present on the front (north) facade toward the east wing. Other windows, along both sides of the wings, consist of eight- over-eight-light or six- over-six-light double hung wood frame sash. A small concrete block addition, housing a refrigeration unit, was added to the west wing of Facility No. 601 in the 1960s. A second small addition projects from the rear of the main building and houses a vault.

HAMILTON FIELD
Group Headquarters Type B
(Facility No. 601)

HABS No. CA-2398-AG Page 2

A long corridor extends along the interior north side of the building, between the offices and the exterior wall with the row of windows. A second row of windows, with eight-over-eight-light double hung wood sash windows lines the interior wall of this corridor, allowing natural light to enter the bank of offices. Floors in the offices and corridor are wood tongue and groove covered with green and grey eight-inch square vinyl asbestos tiles. Walls are gypsum board and office space is defined with temporary wood partitions. Most rooms have suspended acoustical tile ceilings; those without these tiles have exposed roof truss beams (6-inch square) supported by wood knee braces.

Originally, light fixtures were "schoolhouse" type with milk glass globes, mounted flush with the ceiling or suspended on chains. A few of these fixtures remain, but most have been replaced with two-tube fluorescent fixtures with open metal hoods, suspended or mounted on ceilings. Heat is provided through a forced air system fueled by a gas furnace.

There are three latrines in the building. The west wing has one in the northwest corner. It contains two wall-mounted hand sinks, four Standard wall-mounted urinals and four flush-valve "Standard Modernus" toilets divided by wood half-length partitions. The east wing has a latrine in the southeast corner with three toilets, two urinals and two sinks, all similar to the west wing. The main building has a facility near the east wing with four toilets and two sinks.

A vault, located near the pay booth cage, projects outward from the rear of the building. It is fire proof, with a thick steel door and was made by the Mosler Safe Company, Hamilton, Ohio.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

This building was completed in 1942 for a total cost of \$37,412.97. It was first used as a squadron headquarters and, by the end of 1942, as an administration building with an attached day room. By 1966 it housed a wing headquarters with payroll services and a mess hall.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

**HAMILTON FIELD
Group Headquarters Type B
(Facility No. 601)**

HABS No. CA-2398-AG Page 3

See the project Field Record, roll 7, exposures 4-9; roll 8, exposures 1-3; roll 17, exposures 7-12; roll 18, exposures 7-12; roll 19, exposures 4-6; roll 50, exposures 3-12; and roll 97, exposures 10-12.

The line drawn sketches drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: May 1993

